

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Priority Application Serial No. 299 22 034.6 (Germany)
Priority Filing Date December 15, 1999
Inventor Gerd Hexels
Assignee Texplorer GmbH
Priority Group Art Unit Unknown
Priority Examiner Unknown
Attorney's Docket No. LO24-001
Title: Garment, in Particular Undergarment, for Persons in Military and Civil
Defense Services

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

From: George G. Grigel (Tel. 509-624-4276; Fax 509-838-3424)
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Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the Application filed concurrently
herewith, please enter the following Preliminary Amendments.

In the Specification

At page 1, line 3, please insert --Field of the Invention-- in
place of the blank line.

At page 1, line 7, please insert --Background-- in place of the
blank line.

At page 4, line 6, please insert --Detailed Description-- in place
of the blank line.

In the Abstract, please delete the title from the Abstract where such title appears underlined and situated between the words "Abstract" and the first line starting with "A garment".

In the Claims

Please delete claims 1-6 and enter new claims 8-21 to read as follows:

8. A garment, in particular an undergarment, for persons in military and civil defense services, with a first nonwoven of natural fibers or synthetic fibers, a second nonwoven of natural or synthetic fibers and discrete flakes of expanded graphite as a flame-retardant material, which are applied to at least one of the surfaces of the two nonwovens.

9. The garment as claimed in claim 8, wherein polyester fibers are provided as the first nonwoven.

10. The garment as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second nonwoven consists of polyester.

11. The garment as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second nonwoven consists of polyamide.

12. The garment as claimed in claim 8, wherein a membrane permeable to water vapor and air is arranged between one of the two nonwovens and the flakes of expanded graphite.

13. The garment as claimed in claim 8, wherein the flakes of expanded graphite are distributed in a layer of hot-melt adhesive.

14. The garment as claimed in claim 13, wherein the two nonwovens and the flakes of expanded graphite are bonded together by the layer of hot-melt adhesive to form a three-layer laminate.

15. The garment as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a membrane and wherein the second nonwoven is bonded to the membrane by means of the layer of hot-melt adhesive with the expanded graphite, while the membrane is bonded to the first nonwoven by means of spots of adhesive.

16. A process for producing a garment, comprising the steps of:

providing a first nonwoven;

providing a second nonwoven;

joining the first and second nonwovens together; and

applying discrete flakes of expanded graphite as a flame retardant material to a surface of one of the first and second nonwovens.

17. The process of claim 16 wherein the step of applying the discrete flakes of expanded graphite is accomplished by providing a layer of hot-melt adhesive; by placing flakes of graphite in the hot-melt adhesive and depositing the hot-melt adhesive and flakes of graphite on the surface of one of the first and second nonwovens.

18. The process of claim 17 comprising the further step of providing a membrane between the first and second nonwovens.

19. The process of claim 16 comprising the further step of providing a membrane between the first and second nonwovens.

20. A flame retardant garment component, comprising:
a first nonwoven;
a second nonwoven;
discrete flakes of expanded graphite as a flame-retardant material, applied to at least one of the nonwovens;
wherein the flakes of expanded graphite are distributed in a layer of hot-melt adhesive between the first and second nonwovens.

21. The garment as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a membrane and wherein the second nonwoven is bonded to the membrane by means of the layer of hot-melt adhesive with the expanded graphite, and wherein the membrane is bonded to the first nonwoven by means of spots of adhesive.

REMARKS

The Preliminary Amendment is included to correct inconsistencies and to include further claims that define Applicant's invention.

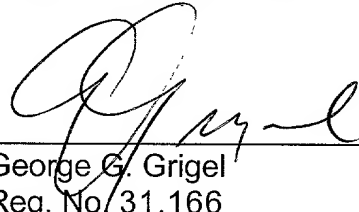
Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered and that the Application as amended be examined and allowed.

If there are any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 13 Dec 2000

By: _____


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